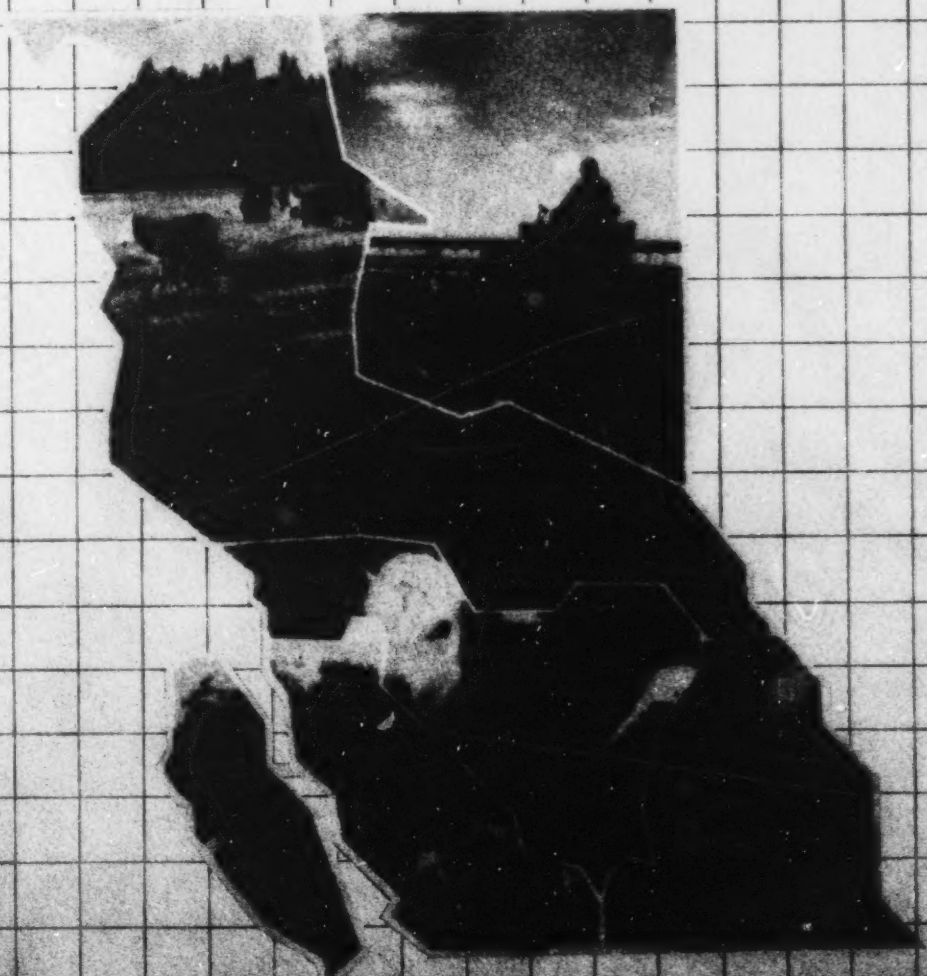
Agriculture Profile

Smithers District

Province of British Columbia

Ministry of Agriculture and Food



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SMITHERS DISTRICT

Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Agriculture and Food

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This series of agricultural profiles was produced by the Policy Development and Economics Division, British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The report is descriptive, and includes statistical information from a variety of sources. It is designed primarily as an information base for use by Ministry of Agriculture and Food staff in district goal identification and program planning.

The authors acknowledge with gratitude the assistance and co-operation received from individuals and organizations both public and private during the preparation of this report.

This report is one of a series covering the eighteen District Agriculturists' Office Areas of British Columbia.

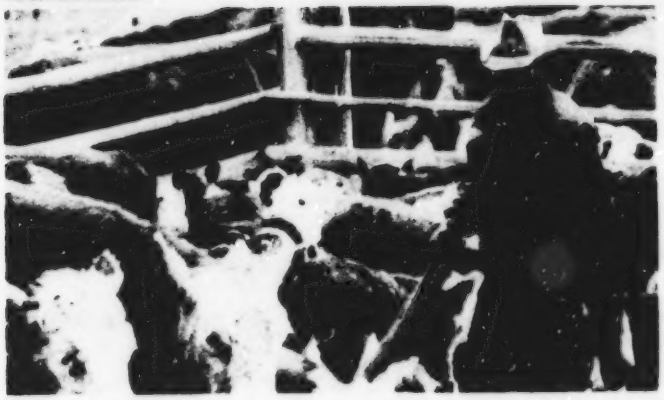
Abbotsford
Chilliwack
Cloverdale
Courtenay
Cranbrook
Creston
Dawson Creek
Duncan
Fort St. John
Kamloops
Oliver
Prince George
Quesnel
Salmon Arm
Smithers
Vanderhoof
Vernon
Williams Lake

BRITISH COLUMBIA AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGIONS

AGRICULTURAL PROFILE - SMITHERS DISTRICT

PREFACE

BACKGROUND



The British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food has divided the Province into eighteen agricultural districts, each served by a District Agriculturist. Profiles of these districts were first developed in 1980 under the Canada-British Columbia Agriculture and Rural Development Subsidiary Agreement (A.R.D.S.A).

The availability of new data from the 1981 Census of Agriculture resulted in a need for major revision. The present profile is an updated version reflecting the Census information. At the same time, the profiles have been expanded to include information not previously available, and many of the tables have been restructured to show a more detailed breakdown of different variables by farm sales.

CAVEAT

As the agricultural districts were designed to meet the needs of the farming community, and as their boundaries were developed to ensure efficient use of the District Agriculturist's time, the boundaries do not necessarily coincide with those of the Census Divisions or Subdivisions. However, statistical data from the Census of Agriculture is currently only available for Census Divisions and Subdivisions. An attempt was made, both in the original profiles and in these updates, to choose census divisions and subdivisions which most closely represent the agricultural districts. In this profile all references to the Smithers District are to the area covered by census divisions 51-Bulkley-Nechako subs. B and C, 49-Kitimat Stikine, 47-Skeena Queen Charlotte and 57-Stikine.

STRUCTURE

The profiles have been designed to provide a comprehensive source of statistical information on each agricultural district. They have been divided into three sections: an overview of the district, a description of the farms and farmers of the district, and a description of the farm products of the district.

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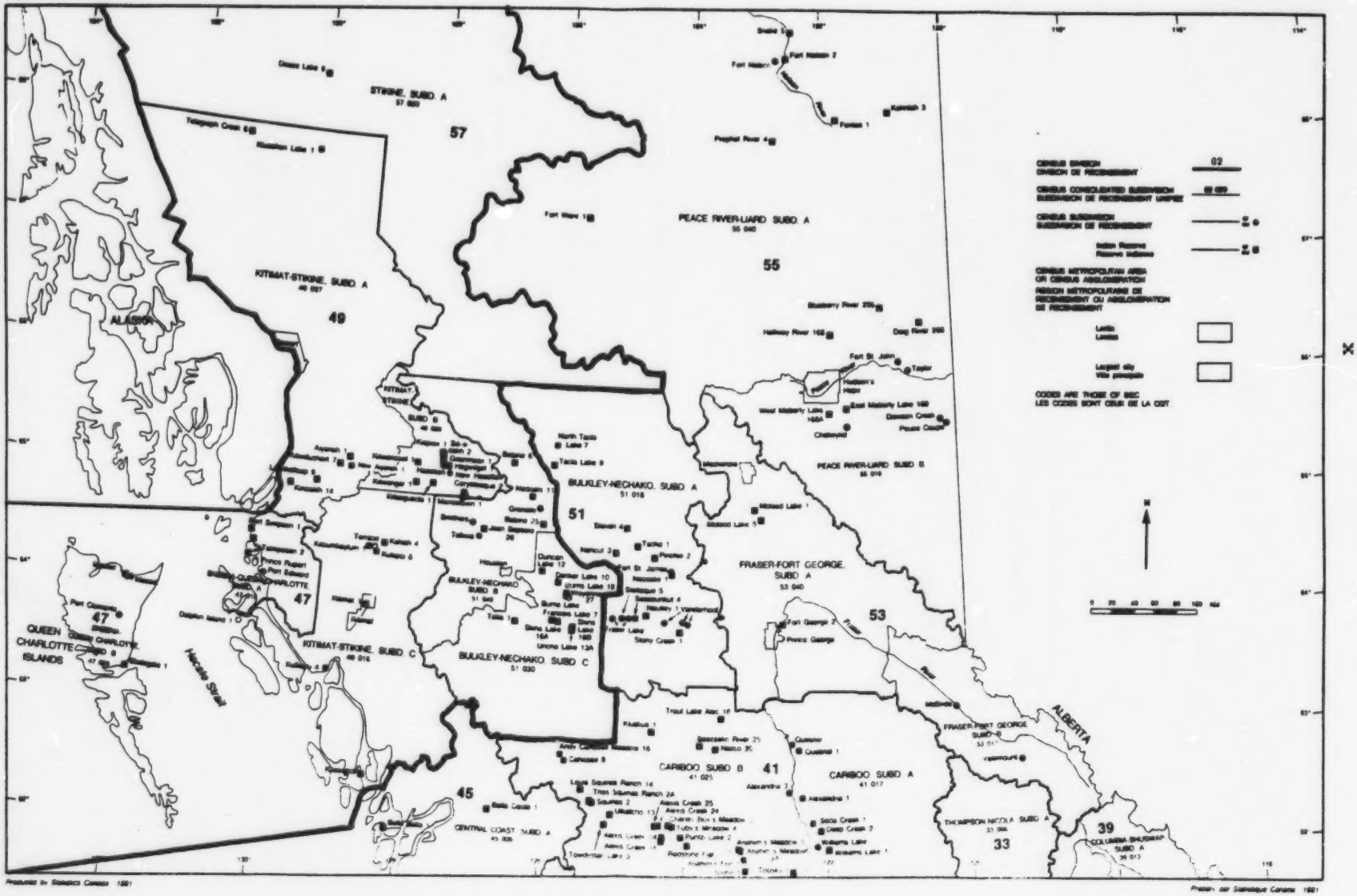
SMITHERS AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT



OVERVIEW: SMITHERS DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

The Smithers Agricultural District occupies 26.5 million hectares in the Central Agricultural Reporting Region. The district consists of mountainous terrain typical of the north-western portion of the province. Limited amounts of flat land, usually in the form of deltas or deep valley troughs occur between mountain blocks.

Census figures indicate a 1981 population of 92,700, an increase of 13.8 percent over 1976 levels. The urban/rural distribution has shifted to a more rural society which now represents 46.2 percent of the total population up from 38 percent in 1976. Total experienced labour force totals 44,915, with the majority employed in the manufacturing, personal services, trade and utility sectors.

The major agricultural activity in the district consists of beef production. In 1981, cattle production was the primary activity of 46 percent of farms. Field crops, almost exclusively fodder crops accounted for 13 percent of holdings while miscellaneous specialty production was reported by 11 percent of operations. Cattle production was the primary activity of 59 percent of holdings with sales greater than $50,000 in 1981. Farm cash receipts totalled $15 million in 1981, 1.7 percent of the provincial total. Cattle and calves and dairy accounted for 44 and 26 percent of receipts respectively.

The Smithers District accounts for 44,268 hectares in agricultural holdings, approximately 2 percent of the provincial total. The total number of farms enumerated by the 1981 Census of Agriculture was 556. Farms are larger than the provincial average in Smithers where 30 percent of holdings are more than 225 hectares. Average farm size is 220 hectares compared to 109 hectares for the province as a whole. In 1981, 36 percent of farmland was classified as improved compared with 43.4 percent for the province.

The horticulture industry represents an opportunity for agricultural expansion in the district, particularly in the Stikine Valley and Queen Charlotte Islands. Marketing channels include direct off farm sales, retail outlets and farmers' markets. Increased storage and packing capacity would stimulate further growth in this industry. Other growth prospects include hay for sale or feed, cattle, floriculture/nursery, small poultry units (under 500 birds) and light horse breeding. The present volume of cattle sold in the area supports local abattoirs but not increased packing capacity. Large distances to markets outside the region coupled with high land clearing costs represent the major constraints for agricultural growth in the area. However, the urban areas of Prince George and Prince Rupert offer large and growing markets for agricultural produce in the region.

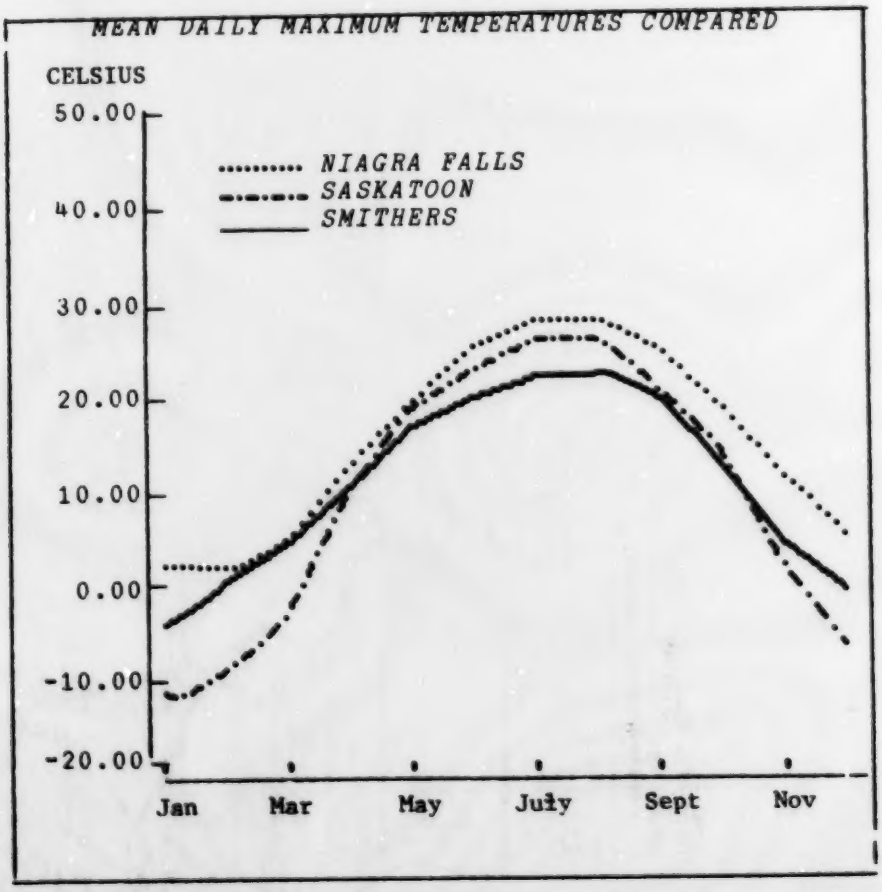
TABLE 1

CLIMATIC DATA

SMITHERS/NIAGARA FALLS/SASKATOON COMPARED

	SMITHERS	NIAGARA FALLS	SASKATOON
Growing Degree Days	1,059.3	2,472.7	1,619.9
Frost Free Period	52	172	117
Total Precipitation	522.2	942.3	348.8

Source: Canadian Climate Normals 1951-1980
Temperature and Precipitation Normals 1951-1980
Environment Canada



CENTRAL ALR AREAS

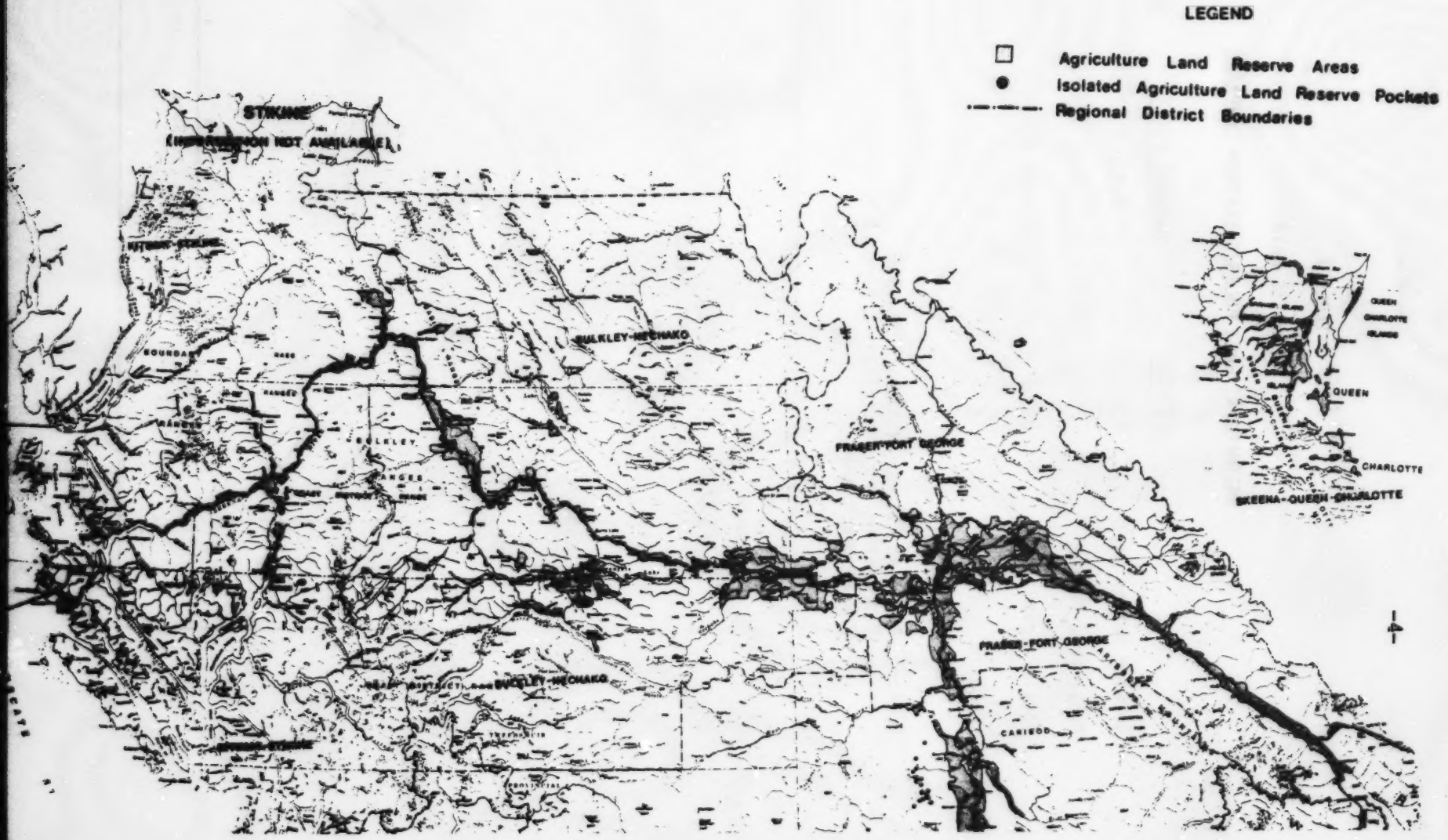


TABLE 2

SMITHERS DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE AREAS IN HECTARES

SUMMARY TABLE: LAND CAPABILITY CLASS BY PRESENT LAND USE

Present Land Use

	1	2	3	4	1-4	5	6	7	Water	Total	%Total
Forages and Grains	0	10	5,560	17,320	22,890	22,540	2,120	420	0	47,970	11
Horticulture	0	10	110	50	170	80	0	0	0	250	0.1
Grassland and Pasture	0	60	1,210	4,910	6,180	9,950	1,900	360	0	18,390	4
Forest	0	2,500	28,660	98,490	129,650	151,950	31,080	23,210	0	335,890	80
Non-Productive Lands	0	30	480	1,220	1,730	1,840	300	280	10,170	14,320	3
Total	0	2,610	36,020	121,990	160,620	186,360	35,400	24,270	10,170	416,820	
% Total	0	0.6	9	29	36	45	8	6	2		

Source: B.C. Land Inventory Report, Vol. 1, 2
Talisman Project Inc., 1980.

CENTRAL LAND CAPABILITY

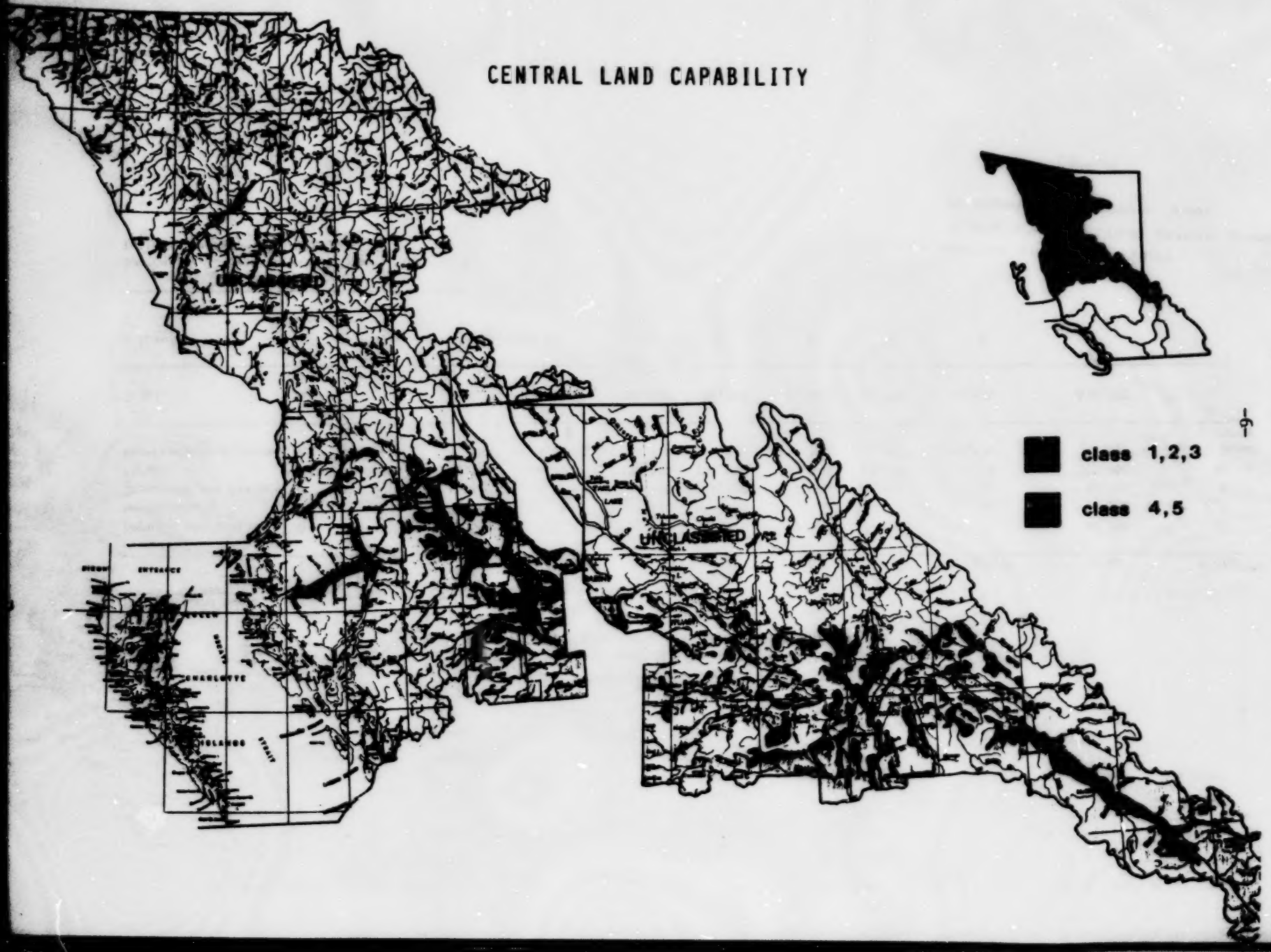


TABLE 3

CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGION

AGRICULTURE LAND CAPABILITY

Class	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Water Surface	Other*	Total
Hectares:										
Unimproved	-	9,545	91,831	461,509	1,240,611	428,253	4,110,796	506,906	30,438,133	37,287,585
Improved**	40	9,505	100,374	481,299	1,220,768	433,605	4,096,954	506,906	30,438,133	37,287,585
Percent:										
Unimproved	-	0.03	0.25	1.2	3.3	1.2	11.02	1.36	81.63	100.00
Improved**	-	0.03	0.27	1.3	3.3	1.2	10.99	1.36	81.63	100.00

*Other includes unclassified urban areas, national parks and unmapped portions of the district.
**Rating if land unit were irrigated and/or drained.

Source: Agriculture Land Capacity in British Columbia, ARDA Project #89077, 1976.

TABLE 4
SMITHERS AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AGRICULTURE AND GRAZING LEASE DATA IN HECTARES

Lease Type: Grazing

Year	No. of Leases	Area
1983	0	-
1982	0	-
1981	8	755.9
1980	2	193.7
1980-1983	10	949.7
TOTAL	128	18,700.7

Lease Type: Extensive Agriculture

1983	0	-
1982	4	688.62
1981	9	670.55
1980	5	280.62
1980-1983	18	1,639.79
TOTAL	53	5,492.60

Lease Type: Intensive Agriculture

1983	0	-
1982	1	51.26
1981	2	113.35
1980	8	293.20
1980-1983	11	457.81
TOTAL	12	473.80

Total lease area in Smithers, 1980-1983: 3,044.26
Total lease area in Smithers: 24,667.10

Note: These figures include the Kamloops and Kelowna Regional Districts as defined by the Ministry of Land, Parks and Housing which encompass most of the Salmon Arm, Vernon and Oliver District Office areas as classified by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Source: B.C. Crown Land: Range and Cultivated Land Inventory, B.C.M.A. 1984

TABLE 5

USE OF LAND BY FARM SALES CLASS SMITHERS, 1981-IN HECTARES

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Number of Farms	157	56	88	70	132	53	556
Total Area of Farms	11,128	5,784	11,448	8,614	51,375	34,338	122,686
Total Improved Land Area	4,000	1,798	4,233	3,474	16,207	14,556	44,268
Total Area Under Crop	1,957	1,295	2,360	1,966	9,323	8,084	24,984
Number of Farms Reporting	113	51	78	63	127	51	483
Area of Improved Pasture	1,531	283	1,653	1,066	5,587	5,738	15,857
Number of Farms Reporting	71	28	53	40	91	38	321
Area in Summer Fallow	145	59	51	98	535	156	1,045
Number of Farms Reporting	19	8	11	12	20	3	73
Other Improved Land Area	368	161	169	344	762	578	2,382
Number of Farms Reporting	107	39	63	54	95	32	390
Total Unimproved Land Area	7,130	3,987	7,213	5,141	35,168	19,781	78,420
Woodland Area	2,257	300	1,874	786	5,656	3,963	14,836
Number of Farms Reporting	66	21	27	24	45	13	196
Other Unimproved Land Area	4,873	3,687	5,340	4,355	29,512	15,818	63,584
Number of Farms Reporting	111	47	69	56	108	45	436

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture
December 1983

TABLE 6

SMITHERS AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT:

NUMBER OF FARMS BY FARM SALES CLASS

SALES	$-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10,000+
1971	263	66	44	77
1976	321	84	72	118
1981	213	88	70	185

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

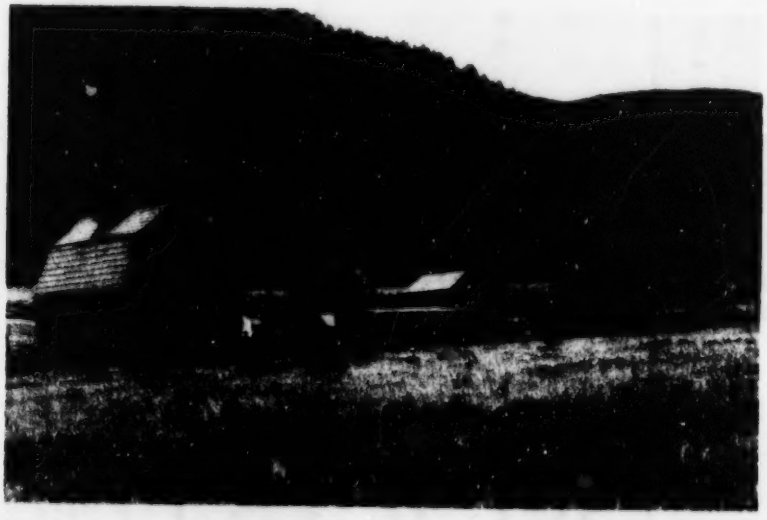


TABLE 7

SMITHERS AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY PRODUCT TYPE AND SALES -1981 CENSUS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Dairy	4	1	3	1	6	17	32
Cattle	37	11	41	33	104	31	257
Hogs	8	-	1	2	1	-	12
Poultry	28	15	12	5	1	1	62
Wheat	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Small Grains	6	-	2	2	3	-	13
Other Field Crops	23	13	9	6	7	1	59
Fruits and Vegetables	11	2	4	2	2	-	21
Miscellaneous Specialty	26	7	10	11	7	2	63
Livestock Combination	7	5	4	4	1	1	22
Other Combinations	7	1	2	4	-	-	14
TOTAL	157	56	88	70	132	53	556

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 8

SMITHERS AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY SIZE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
1-2 Acres	6	-	1	3	-	-	10
3-9 Acres	18	2	2	2	3	1	28
10-69 Acres	38	16	17	4	5	-	80
70-129 Acres	13	6	13	8	4	-	44
130-179 Acres	38	18	17	15	6	1	95
180-239 Acres	8	2	6	4	5	1	26
240-399 Acres	16	5	17	12	24	2	76
400-559 Acres	10	4	4	8	9	2	37
560-759 Acres	6	-	3	11	15	9	44
760-1119 Acres	4	1	3	2	23	8	41
1120-1599 Acres	-	-	4	1	19	10	34
1600 Acres and Over	-	2	1	-	19	19	41
TOTAL	157	56	88	70	132	53	556

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

SMITHERS: AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE BASE

Farm Taxfiler's Income

The district has a relatively high proportion of low income operations. In 1981, 67 percent of farms had sales less than $10,000 compared to 60 percent for B.C. as a whole. Average gross farm income reported was $26,500 in 1981 compared to $39,959 provincially. Almost all taxfilers in the Smithers District reported some off farm income, with 67 percent reporting wages and salaries.

Agricultural Employment

Over 32 percent of reported days off farm work included non agricultural labour, approximately 79 percent of off farm work was reported from holdings with sales less than $10,000. Farm operators hired an average 7 weeks of farm labour, compared with 24 weeks for the province as a whole. In 1981, farms with sales greater than $50,000 provided 58 percent of agricultural employment.

Agricultural Land Development Act

The 1981 census reported 39 fewer holdings than in 1976. Land clearing has accounted for over 75 percent of A.L.D.A. expenditures since 1971, with over 4,300 hectares cleared during the period 1971-81. Approximately 19 percent of funds are allocated to land breaking, which has totalled 3,200 hectares since 1971. Operators report using 2,197 tonnes of fertilizer on 15,416 hectares of agricultural land in 1981.

Farm Capital

The total nominal value of farm capital has increased from $80 million in 1976 to $190 million in 1981. The per farm average rose from $134,000 to $341,000 over the same period. The proportion of investment in land and buildings, livestock and machinery has remained relatively constant since 1976. In 1981, total farm capital per hectare was $1,547, about one-third of the provincial average.

Age of Operators

The age distribution of farmers remained relatively constant over the period 1976-81 with the largest increase in the 55-59 age group, the total number of farmers decreased by 7 percent, the district now represents 2.8 percent of the provincial total.

TABLE 9

SMITHERS AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY CAPITAL VALUE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

Capital Value	Sales $250-2499	$2500-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
$10,000-24,999	1	-	-	-	1
$25,000-49,999	11	5	-	-	16
$50,000-99,999	63	19	2	-	84
$100,000-199,999	83	49	20	1	153
$200,000-499,999	48	75	67	7	197
$500,000 AND OVER	7	10	43	45	105
TOTAL 213	158	132	53	556	

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 10

TOTAL FARM CAPITAL BY FARM SALES, 1981: SMITHERS DISTRICT

	$250-2499	$2500-9999	$10000-49999	$50000+	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	213	158	132	53	556
TOTAL CAPITAL VALUE	34,426,307	37,821,287	63,599,985	53,966,836	189,814,415
VALUE OF LAND & BUILDINGS	29,552,059	31,662,304	48,355,809	39,810,132	149,380,304
VALUE OF MACHINERY	3,612,807	4,176,618	7,448,880	5,087,646	20,325,951
VALUE OF LIVESTOCK-POULTRY	1,261,441	1,982,365	7,795,296	9,069,058	20,108,160
AVERAGE CAPITAL VALUE	161,626	239,375	481,818	1,018,242	341,393
RATIO OF CAPITAL VALUE TO MIDDLE VALUE OF FARM SALES CLASS	118	38	16	6	

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE II

1983 SALES OF FARMS-CENTRAL REGION

Area Name	No. Pcls.	Hectares	Sale Price	Value of Improvements	Residual Value	Actual Value	Assessment Sales Ratio	Mkt Value $/Hectare
Northwest	17	1,496	$1,697,000	$243,500	$1,453,500	$318,870	0.219	971
Prince George	36	2,815	2,985,201	458,400	2,526,801	904,311	0.358	897

Source: B.C. Assessment Authority.

TABLE 12

AVERAGE AGE OF FARMERS: SMITHERS DISTRICT

	1976	1981	CHANGE
Under 25	14	9	-5
25 - 34	107	92	-15
35 - 44	154	145	-9
45 - 54	179	156	-23
55 - 59	56	74	+18
60- 64	44	42	-2
65 - 69	24	22	-2
70 & Over	17	17	-
TOTAL	595	556	-39
TOTAL PERCENT OF B.C.	3.1	2.8	

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 13
CENTRAL REGION
FARM TAXFILER'S INCOME 1980.

	# of Farm Taxfilers	Average Gross Farm Income $'000s	Total Gross Farm Income $'000s	# Reporting Farm Net Income	Average Net Farm Income $'000s	Total Net Farm Income $'000s	# Reporting Wages & Salaries	Average Wage & Salary $'000s	# Reporting Off Farm Income	Average Off Farm Income $'000s	Total Off Farm Income $'000s	Average Income All Sources $'000s	Total Income All Sources $'000s
Fraser-Ft. George	310	17.8	5,524.5	299	(6.28)	(1,945.9)	210	10.8	299	15.1	4,689.4	8.9	2,743.5
Prince George	770	14.7	11,295.1	756	(3.27)	(2,521.0)	589	18.3	753	25.0	19,209.1	21.7	16,688.2
Bulkley-Nechako	1,170	26.6	31,103.3	1,143	(2.10)	(2,453.5)	762	12.3	1,128	17.2	20.166.1	15.1	17,712.6
Stikine	10	15.2	151.6	10	404	4040	8	11.5	10	22.2	221.6	22.6	225.6
Kitimat-Stikine	190	7.9	1,503.3	185	(3.85)	(730.7)	144	15.5	190	22.4	4,247.8	18.5	8,517.1
Skeena	10	6.3	63.2	8	(1.59)	(15.88)	7	14.3	9	17.6	175.8	16.0	159.9
Prince Rupert	15	3.1	45.7	15	(1.04)	(15.54)	13	22.9	15	28.0	420.6	27.0	405.1
Total/ Omineca	2,475	20.1	49,686.8	2,416	3.10	(7,678.5)	1,733		2,404	19.9	49,130.4	16.8	41,452.0

Source: Revenue Canada.

TABLE 14

OFF-FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY TYPE OF WORK & FARM SALES, 1981: SMITHERS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	157	56	88	70	132	53	556
DAYS OF OFF-FARM WORK	18,736	6,877	12,360	8,961	10,636	1,606	59,176
FARMS REPORTING	103	37	63	52	76	10	341
AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK	1,156	302	302	713	904	915	4,292
FARMS REPORTING	12	5	3	7	12	3	42
NON-AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK	17,580	6,575	12,058	8,248	9,732	691	54,884
FARMS REPORTING	95	35	62	48	67	8	315

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 15

SMITHERS AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

OFF FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY NUMBER OF DAYS AND FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,000	$50,000+	Total
1-6 Days	-	-	-	1	4	-	5
7-12	2	1	1	1	1	-	6
13-24	1	-	-	3	3	2	9
25-48	9	-	3	2	6	1	21
49-72	7	-	1	2	3	-	13
73-96	4	3	3	-	5	-	15
97-126	8	5	5	7	17	2	44
127-156	7	1	6	5	4	1	24
157-228	28	16	20	18	20	1	103
229-365	37	11	24	13	13	3	101
Total	103	37	63	52	76	10	341

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 16

HIRED AGRICULTURAL LABOUR BY FARM SALES, 1981: SMITHERS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	157	56	88	70	132	53	556
TOTAL WEEKS OF HIRED LABOUR	116	162	199	353	877	2,352	4,059
FARMS REPORTING	11	11	23	23	52	37	157
WEEKS OF YEAR-ROUND LABOUR	4	55	1	217	378	1,852	2,507
FARMS REPORTING	2	2	1	5	10	20	40
WEEKS OF SEASONAL LABOUR	112	107	198	136	499	500	1,552
FARMS REPORTING	9	10	22	18	45	24	128

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 17

AGRICULTURE LAND DEVELOPMENT ACT WORK DONE, APRIL 1971 - MARCH 1962: SMITHERS DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

	CLEARED			BROKEN			IRRIGATION	DRAINAGE	OTHER	TOTAL
Fiscal Year	Hectares	Cost/ Hectare $	Cost $'000	Hectares	Cost/ Hectare $	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	$'000
1971/72	248	105	26	165	30	5	-	-	2	33
1972/73	166	114	19	134	30	4	-	-	-	23
1973/74	420	170	71	282	47	13	-	-	2	86
1974/75	1,105	131	145	682	53	36	-	-	6	187
1975/76	807	186	150	645	45	29	11	-	6	196
1976/77	156	154	24	97	52	5	9	-	1	39
1977/78	493	241	119	388	64	25	-	-	1	145
1978/79	196	281	55	174	80	14	-	-	3	72
1979/80	303	295	89	280	85	24	-	-	5	118
1980/81	186	216	55	189	122	23	-	-	17	95
1981/82	246	280	69	164	171	28	-	-	5	102

SOURCE: British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food, A.L.D.A. Branch Records

TABLE 18

SPRAYING, DUSTING AND IRRIGATION, 1981: SMITHERS

Spraying and Dusting (any)	63
Weed Control (Hec.)	633
Farms Reporting	57
For Insect Control (Hec.)	20
Farms Reporting	9
Irrigation - Total Area (Hec.)	543
Farms Reporting	54
Sprinkler System - Total Area (Hec.)	390
Farms Reporting	42

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 19

FERTILIZER USE, 1981: SMITHERS

Total Area (hectares)	15,416
Tonnes	2,197
No. Reports of Any Use	105
Total Cropland (Hec.)	4,235
Tonnes	755
Farms Reporting	122
Total Tame Hay (Hec.)	9,285
Tonnes	1,217
Farms Reporting	182
Total Improved Pasture (Hec.)	1,896
Tonnes	225
Farms Reporting	77

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

SMITHERS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Livestock and Related Products

Sales of livestock and products for 1981 were valued at $12 million or 76 percent of total farm cash receipts. Cattle operations accounted for $6.6 million of this total or 5 percent of provincial beef sales. Total cattle herd size increased by 16 percent to 34,200 head over the period 1976-81. The 1981 census indicates that Smithers has 5.4 percent of the provincial beef cow population although it only has 2.8 percent of the agricultural holdings. The dairy industry is relatively stable with the dairy herd experiencing a 20 percent increase to 1,570 head since 1976.

Sheep production is small but expanding, mostly in small farm flocks. Most sales are direct off the farm, the sheep population has increased by 25 percent to 1,500 head since 1976. Predator problems are a constant source of difficulty for the industry and hinder large scale production. The hog industry has remained relatively minor, mostly as a subsidiary activity, the hog population experienced virtually no fluctuation since 1976. The majority of production is marketed to local processors.

The poultry industry appears relatively stable with the chicken population experiencing virtually no expansion since 1976. The majority of the chicken population is concentrated in the $50,000+ sales bracket. Other poultry products, primarily ducks and geese have experienced some contraction over the last few years decreasing 25 percent since 1976, mostly in small farm flocks.

Vegetables/Specialty Crops

Field vegetable receipts totalled $600,000 in 1981, potato production accounts for more than one-half of this total. Census data indicates that 36 holdings report vegetable production as a intensive activity and that there are 84 hectares under field vegetable production in the district. Hothouse vegetables were valued at $146,000, there were over 3,800 square meters of greenhouse space in 1981. Floriculture/nursery is also important, 1981 receipts totalled $17,000.

Small Fruit/Tree Fruit

Small fruit receipts, mostly strawberries and other berries were valued at $32,000 in 1981, the district has 4.7 hectares under cultivation. Tree fruit production totalled $22,000 in 1981, apple cultivation accounts for most of the 4.7 hectares of tree fruit area in the district.

Field Crops

Field crops, mostly barley and oats totalled $154,000 in 1981 farm cash receipts, these two commodities account for approximately 6 percent of cropland area. Over 90 percent of total crop area is devoted to fodder crops for the local cattle industry, wheat, canola, potatoes and other mixed grains account for remaining cropland. Honey is also an important cash crop with 1981 receipts totalling $160,800.

TABLE 20

ESTIMATE OF FARM CASH RECEIPTS, 1981

SMITHERS AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

COMMODITY	FARM CASH RECEIPTS $'000	PERCENTAGE	PERCENTAGE OF B.C. OUTPUT
Wheat	11.47	0.08	0.13
Oats	41.26	0.28	1.42
Barley	95.53	0.64	1.16
CWB Payments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Canola	5.78	0.04	0.28
Potatoes	287.77	1.92	1.57
Small Fruits	32.36	0.22	0.08
Field Vegetables	312.12	2.08	1.07
Floriculture/Nursery	16.65	0.11	0.03
Forest Prod.	170.09	1.14	7.27
Cattle & Calves	6,616.38	44.17	5.39
Income Ins.	962.29	6.42	
Hogs	134.68	0.90	0.72
Sheep	60.54	0.40	2.30
Income Ins.	3.56	0.02	
Poultry & Eggs	797.55	5.32	0.59
Dairy Products	3,836.81	25.62	1.77
C.D.C. Subsidy	153.19	1.02	
Honey	160.80	1.07	3.15
Tree Fruit	21.82	0.15	0.04
Hothouse	145.96	0.97	0.50
Other	1,096.52	7.32	1.60
TOTAL	14,959.57		

SOURCE: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 1983.

TABLE 21

AREA IN FIELD CROPS BY FARM SALES, 1981: SMITHERS-IN HECTARES

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Number of Farms	157	56	88	70	132	53	556
Flaxseed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tame Hay - Total	1,678	1,061	2,022	1,600	7,779	6,228	20,368
Farms Reporting	91	43	71	57	116	50	428
Alfalfa and Mixtures	299	107	460	208	747	654	2,476
Farms Reporting	19	7	20	11	25	13	95
Other Tame Hay	1,379	953	1,562	1,392	7,032	5,575	17,893
Farms Reporting	82	37	61	51	105	45	381
Oats for Fodder	152	100	138	184	778	574	1,926
Farms Reporting	24	10	22	21	52	22	151
Other Fodder Crops	25	56	77	12	162	380	713
Farms Reporting	5	3	4	3	10	7	32

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 22

SMITHERS AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

AREA OF VEGETABLES ON FARMS, IN HECTARES- 1981 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	157	56	88	70	132	53	556
Vegetables	8.7	1.3	18	9.2	47	-	84
Farms Reporting	15	4	7	5	5	-	36
Asparagus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Beans	0.24	0.08	0.08	0.28	0.20	-	0.89
Farms Reporting	4	2	2	2	1	-	11
Beets	0.36	0.08	0.08	0.24	0.65	-	1.40
Farms Reporting	5	2	1	3	4	-	15
Broccoli	0.32	0.04	12	0.61	13	-	26
Farms Reporting	4	1	2	4	2	-	13
Cabbage	2.6	0.08	0.45	1.8	9.9	-	15
Farms Reporting	8	2	2	4	4	-	20
Carrots	0.65	0.28	0.41	0.36	13	-	15
Farms Reporting	8	3	1	4	5	-	21
Cauliflower	0.32	0.08	0.04	0.61	2.0	-	3.1
Farms Reporting	4	2	1	4	1	-	12
Cucumbers	0.08	-	1.2	0.08	0.2	-	1.6
Farms Reporting	2	-	1	2	1	-	6
Green Peas	0.28	0.12	0.12	0.16	0.2	-	0.89
Farms Reporting	4	3	3	2	1	-	13
Lettuce	0.28	0.24	0.08	0.04	0.2	-	0.85
Farms Reporting	4	2	2	1	1	-	10
Onions (Dry)	0.2	-	0.64	0.24	-	-	0.49
Farms Reporting	3	-	1	2	-	-	6
Rutabagas	0.65	0.04	1.7	4.1	4.1	-	10.5
Farms Reporting	4	1	3	2	2	-	12
Sweet Corn	0.2	-	2.2	0.04	1.4	-	3.8
Farms Reporting	1	-	3	1	1	-	6
Tomatoes	0.12	0.04	-	-	-	-	0.16
Farms Reporting	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
Other Vegetables	2.4	0.2	0.12	0.61	2.0	-	5.3
Farms Reporting	7	1	2	2	1	-	13

TABLE 23
SMITHERS AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN SMALL FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	157	56	88	70	132	53	556
Small Fruits	2.6	0.2	0.53	1.3	0.04	-	4.7
Farms Reporting	8	1	3	4	1	-	17
Strawberries	0.49	-	0.45	1.1	0.04	-	2.0
Farms Reporting	4	-	2	3	1	-	10
Grapes	0.08	-	-	-	-	-	0.08
Farms Reporting	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Berries	2.1	0.2	0.08	0.28	-	-	2.6
Farms Reporting	7	1	2	3	-	-	13

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 24
SMITHERS AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN TREE FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	157	56	88	70	132	53	556
Tree Fruits	3.4	0.97	-	-	0.32	-	4.7
Farms Reporting	4	2	-	-	1	-	7
Apple	2.2	0.57	-	-	0.12	-	2.9
Farms Reporting	3	2	-	-	1	-	6
No. of Apple Trees	160	90	-	-	40	-	290
Pear	0.08	0.04	-	-	0.08	-	0.2
Farms Reporting	2	1	-	-	1	-	4
Number of Pear Trees	7	2	-	-	21	-	30
Plum and Prune	0.12	0.16	-	-	0.04	-	0.32
Farms Reporting	3	1	-	-	1	-	5
Number of Trees	47	10	-	-	8	-	65
Cherry (Sweet)	0.12	0.2	-	-	0.04	-	0.36
Farms Reporting	3	1	-	-	1	-	5
No. of Cherry Trees	25	15	-	-	10	-	50
Cherry (Sour)	0.85	-	-	-	0.04	-	0.89
Farms Reporting	2	-	-	-	1	-	3
Number of Trees	2	-	-	-	4	-	6
Peach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. of Peach Trees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Apricot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. of Apricot Trees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 25
SMITHERS AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN SPECIALTY CROPS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	213	158	132	53	556
Nusery Products	n.a.	n.a.	-	-	0.41
Farms Reporting	2	2	-	-	4
Greenhouse Sq. Metres	1,234	n.a.	1,635	n.a.	3,898
Farms Reporting	15	5	4	1	25

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 26
SMITHERS AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
LIVESTOCK NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	213	158	132	53	556
Cattle-Total Number	1,668	2,945	12,275	13,221	30,109
Farms Reporting	93	114	114	51	372
Cows-Total Number	616	1,415	6,223	5,927	14,186
Farms Reporting	79	104	108	48	339
Dairy Cows-Number	102	116	243	1,117	1,578
Farms Reporting	39	40	25	17	121
Beef Cows-Number	346	576	4,035	3,243	8,500
Farms Reporting	57	89	101	34	281
Heifers-Total Number	586	422	1,482	1,983	4,473
Farms Reporting	55	88	96	46	285
Steers-Number	190	215	900	1,865	3,170
Farms Reporting	48	64	80	31	223
Bulls-Number	55	96	345	258	754
Farms Reporting	38	78	99	43	258
Calves-Number	389	1,220	5,270	4,755	11,634
Farms Reporting	77	104	106	49	336
Pigs-Total Number	208	174	240	39	661
Farms Reporting	38	35	16	5	94
Sheep-Total Number	496	485	n.a.	n.a.	1,538
Farms Reporting	19	17	6	1	43
Horses-Number	365	516	430	162	1,473
Farms Reporting	80	84	82	33	279

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

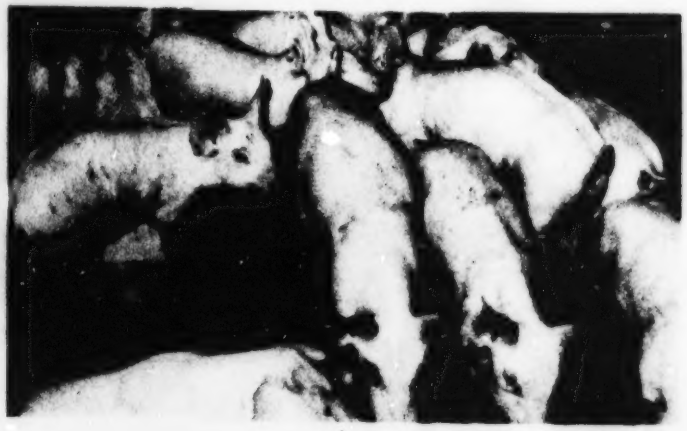


TABLE 27
SMITHERS AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
POULTRY NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	213	158	132	53	556
Hens/Chickens Total No.	5,300	5,829	3,065	45,023	59,217
Farms Reporting	105	96	62	20	283
Turkeys-Number	179	232	90	50	551
Farms Reporting	20	25	8	4	57
Geese-Number	194	214	108	-	516
Farms Reporting	31	30	13	-	74
Ducks-Number	218	141	123	9	491
Farms Reporting	25	20	12	3	60

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

APPENDIX

TERMS USED IN THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Census-farm areas

The area of census-farms reported for each subdivision represents the area of land operated by farmers whose headquarters are in the subdivision.

Crown lands, usually pasture land, which were operated under a lease agreement with federal, provincial or municipal governments, are reported as part of the farming operation of the person to whom the land was leased. However, land which was used under a per head grazing permit or fee is not included.

Large areas of timber land or other non-agricultural land held by the operator, but operated apart from the farm business, are excluded.

Use of Land

All farm land is classified according to use under two major divisions: improved and unimproved land.

Improved Land

1) Crop land - Included in this item is the total area of crop land sown for harvest in the census year. Crop land includes the total area of all field crops, plus the areas of fruits, vegetables, greenhouses, mushroom houses and nursery products. Because some crops are reported in fractions of a hectare, there may be slight differences between the sum of the individual crop areas and the total crop land.

2) Improved pasture - All land which was being used for pasture or grazing and which has had some improvements made to it in recent years is included. Improvements would include cultivation, drainage, irrigation, fertilization, seeding down or spraying.

3) Summer fallow - The enumerator was instructed to include in this item land from which no crop was to be harvested during the census year, but which was to be cultivated or worked during the year for weed control and/or for moisture conservation.

4) Other improved land - This item includes the area of barnyards, home gardens, lanes and roads on farms. It also includes areas of cultivated land that were lying idle, being neither summer-fallowed nor cropped, and areas of new breaking that had not been seeded to a crop.

Unimproved Land

The area of unimproved land consists of the total areas reported for 1) woodland and 2) other unimproved land.

1) Woodland - This includes farm woodlots, land leased for cutting, sugar bush and cut-over land with young growth which has or will have value as timber, fuelwood or Christmas trees. The area of tress planted for wind-breaks was also to be included. It excludes large timber tracts which are run as a separate business from the farm. There is some evidence that changes in the area of this item between censuses may be due to differences in interpretation. This would be particularly true in areas of bushland.

2) Other unimproved land - Areas of native pasture or hay land that had not been cultivated, bush pasture, grazing or waste land, sloughs, marsh and rocky land et cetera, are all included in this item.

TERMS USED IN LAND CAPABILITY RATINGS

Class 1	land is capable of producing the very widest range of vegetables, cereal grains, forages, berry fruits and numerous specialty crops. Soil and climatic conditions are opitimum.
Class 2	land is capable of producing a wide range of regional crops as above with some differences in variety due to minor restrictions of soils and climate.
Class 3	land is capable of producing a fairly wide range of regional crops under good management practices. Soils and/or climate limitations are somewhat restrictive.
Class 4	land is capable of a restricted range of regional crops such as hardy cereal grains, hardy vegetables, and forages. Soil and climate limitations demand special management considerations.
Class 5	land is capable of production of perennial forage crops only. Soil and/or climate restrictions severely limit the land's capability.
Class 6	land is natural rangeland. Soil and/or climate limitations preclude cultivation, but the land may be important in its natural state as grazing land.
Class 7	land has no agricultural capability whatsoever.
UNIMPROVED	These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory dry-farm ratings. They do not reflect either present land use or the state of readiness for cultivation, but only the potential capability if used for agriculture.
IMPROVED	These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory irrigated ratings. They reflect the capabitity for agriculture if the land unit were irrigated and/or drained. They do not indicate whether the land unit is presently either irrigated or drained.
WATER SURFACES	This category includes all non-seasonal lakes and rivers. It also includes that part of the Strait of Georgia, between Vancouver Island and the Mainland , that falls within latitudes 49 N to 51 N.
OTHER	This category includes all regions of the province that were not mapped due to limited agricultural potential, national parks, and unmapped urban areas.

Central Region

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